

TANFIELD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Medical Officer's
Annual Report
FOR 1905.



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Medical Officer's Annual Report **FOR 1905.**

Stanley,

January 29th, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to your Council my report for the year 1905.

The district is purely a coal-mining one, and practically all other trades are depending upon that industry. Whilst the condition of these small and varied industries is supervised by your Authority, mines are governed by special legislative Acts.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

With the increase of population there has been an increase of workshops and small factories. The factories include all work where mechanical power is used, and also, gas-works, brickworks, sawmills, and electrical works, all of which are in existence, and number ten in all. There are the same number of workshops, and these are chiefly in connexion with the Co-operative Stores. There are no wholesale bakeries, but there are three retail, and the premises of these are very cleanly. The slaughter houses are kept clean, all offal being removed early. No deleterious material is in use at the brickworks.

MILK AND WATER SUPPLY.

There are no dairies where the milk is sold over the counter ; the milk supply is provided by cowkeepers, who are chiefly farmers, and the milk is distributed from house to house. The cowkeepers have their sheds in a very satisfactory condition, and none of their cattle are stall fed. The Weardale and Consett Water Company supply the District with water that is both good and abundant. In the villages it is carried into each house, except in a few instances where outside taps still exist, these will shortly be transferred inside. Some isolated cottages however, derive their supply from wells, but that source is disappearing, and at the present time, attention should be given to the failing supply at Dyke Head cottages.

SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR DEPARTMENTS.

NEW HOUSES.—The number of houses built during the year amounted to thirty-seven, and these consisted of twelve self-contained houses, and twenty-five tenemented. The former contain four or more rooms, and the latter have three or more above, and three or more below, with the yards common to both. The sanitary requirements to the above houses, are all that need be desired.

OLD HOUSES.—Under the Housing of the Working Class Act, nine houses situated respectively at Burnopfield, Bob Jin, and White-le-Head were effectively dealt with, they were either pulled down and re-built, or structural alterations were made that brought them into comfortably habitable condition. Several houses in the village of Hobson have been better ventilated by the addition of back doors, and others have got improved pantry accommodation. Back door ventilation is also being carried out in the village of Tanfield Lea. Privy middens are being gradually demolished, and replaced by modern structures. Thirty-eight were so treated during the year. Scavenging and Removal of Refuse are done by contract—and well done—under the supervision of the Inspector. The contract arranges for fortnightly cleansing of the out-offices, and the subsequent dusting of the receptacles with disinfecting powder. There has been some difficulty in procuring suitable places for the deposit of refuse, but that difficulty is now overcome.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—Sewers are now laid to every part of the district, with one exception, which is to be referred to. In some instances, the ventilation was offensive, the ventilators have been removed to more suitable places. The only sewer now required, is to make the connexion between the present outlet at Tanfield Lea, and the outfall works to be constructed. To complete the whole system of sewage treatment, works are required for the village of Tanfield Lea and a few houses at the Causey. The contract for the former has been let, the work will be proceeded with at once. It may be necessary to enlarge the outfall works in connexion with White-le-Head and Tantobie, on account of the increase of population, but in the meantime, the surface water is to be eliminated, and the present area may then be sufficient to deal with the enlarged quantity. The recently constructed bacterial works at Clough Dene are working most satisfactorily.

There are several one roomed cottages still in existence at the Lintz and Friarside. Although these could hardly come under the heading of overcrowding, still, for the sake of increased comfort, additional rooms should be provided.

NOTICES.—Notices to the number of 124 verbal and written, have been served for the usual petty nuisances, but it has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings to enforce them.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases reported during the year 1905, gave a total of 96, and these consisted of 34 of Scarlatina, 31 of Diphtheria, 14 of Enteric Fever, and 17 of Erysipelas. The total for the previous year was 147, being 51 above the year 1905. The decrease in the latter year was due to the decline of Scarlatina.

SCARLATINA.—There is evidence that this disease is gradually decreasing in colliery villages, and the cause of the decline may be attributed to Hospital Isolation. Every patient removed to that institution, probably removes what might be a centre of Infection.

DIPHTHERIA.—The majority of cases of Diphtheria belonging to our locality, and it was in this part of the district that the strongest objection existed to Hospital, "The patient was either too slightly or too seriously ill for removal." Unfortunately proceedings cannot be taken to enforce removal when the accommodation is sufficient for home isolation.

ENTERIC FEVER.—The number of Enteric cases was in excess of several previous years. Out of a total of fourteen, eight originated from one source, and it happened in this way. An unrecognised ambulatory case, was almost a daily visitor to three houses for a period of nearly a month. Several members of each household became infected. The origin of the initial case was not discovered. A similar state of things accounted for two more cases. The remainder were single cases, and the disease in each case was probably imported. Removal to the Hospital ended every outbreak. With regard to the infectiousness of Enteric Fever from several instances which have come under observation, it would appear that infection is

only given off a fortnight or more after the disease has fully developed.

ERYSIPELAS.—The number of cases of Erysipelas was large, but in no single instance was one the product of the other.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles invaded the district on two occasions, but the disease was of a mild type, and never became epidemic, and the attendance at the various schools was not much interfered with. No fatalities followed.

Whooping Cough was present several months during the year, but never got beyond a mild form of epidemic, and scarcely any part of the district was free from the outbreak. The number of deaths was 6. Amongst the various duties devolving on the Inspector, special attention was given to the fumigation of infected premises.

Hospital Accommodation for infectious diseases is ample to meet any demands that may be made on it.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year was 294 giving a birth rate of 32·7 per 1,000, and the number of deaths amounted to 142, giving a death rate of 15·5 per 1,000, estimating the population at 9,000 at the end of last June. The birth rate is slightly lower, and the death rate is considerably lower than last year. The mortality from infectious diseases (including Diarrhœa) gave a total of 19 deaths, and these consisted of no Scarlet Fever, 2 Diphtheria, 4 Enteric Fever, 6 Whooping Cough, and 7 Diarrhœa. The Infantile mortality was lower than the year 1904. In the latter year, 63 deaths occurred under the age of 1 year, giving a death-rate of 201·2 per 1,000 births, whereas in the year 1905, the mortality was only 53, with an increased population, making a death-rate of 180·2 per 1,000 births. The Local Government Board is evidently giving attention throughout the country to the high death-rate amongst children, since a special form has been supplied for the purpose of making a minute return as to the various causes of death under the age of one year.

Below is a table which will shew at a glance how the various rates of this district compare with those of the country.

		County.	Tanfield.
Birth-rate	per 1,000 population ..	34·4	32·7
Death-rate	„ „ „ ...	17·4	15·8
Zymotic Death-rate	„ „ „ ...	17·4	15·8
Infantile mortality-rate (per 1,000 births)	159	.	180·2
Small-pox	per 1,000 population ...	0·002	nil
Scarlet Fever	„ „ „ ..	0·09	nil
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	„ „ „ ...	0·25	0·22
Enteric Fever	„ „ „ ...	0·20	0·44
Measles	„ „ „ ...	0·48	nil
Whooping Cough	„ „ „ ...	0·42	0·67
Diarrhœa	„ „ „ ..	0·90	0·70
Enteritis	„ „ „ ..	0·36	0·33
Phthisis	„ „ „ ..	1·00	0·78
Other Tubercular diseases	„ „ „ ...	0·74	1·44
Respiratory diseases	„ „ „ ...	3·16	2·11

The requirements of the district may be arranged in the following order—

The completion of sewage treatment ;
The replacement of the old privy middens ;
Increased accommodation to single-roomed houses.

Attached are the various Government Forms.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. BENSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Urban District Council,
Tanfield.

Table 1.
TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.								TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE Dis- TRICT.				Deaths of Non- residents register- ed in Public Institu- tions in the District		Deaths of residents register- ed in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.		NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BE- LONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		Rate per 1000 Births register- ed.	Number	Rate.	9	10	11	12	13								
				Number	At all Ages.																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8														
1896	7,300	257	35.2	35	134.4	103	14.1			3	103	14.1									
1897	7,550	286	37.8	53	185.3	135	17.8			2	135	17.8									
1898	7,700	318	41.3	48	151	127	16.4			3	127	16.4									
1899	7,900	319	40.3	44	138	135	17			1	135	17									
1900	8,100	318	39.2	61	191.8	141	17.4			8	141	17.4									
1901	8,300	354	42.6	52	146.8	138	16.6			—	138	16.6									
1902	8,500	319	37.5	46	144.2	149	17.5	1	1	3	148	17.4									
1903	8,700	306	35.1	57	186.25	150	17.25	7	7	2	143	16.4									
1904	8,900	312	35	63	201.2	172	19.3	10	10	4	166	18.6									
Averages for years 1896-1904	8,106	310	38.2	51	164.33	139	17.04	6	6	3	137	16.9									
1905	9,000	294	32.7	53	180.2	152	16.9	14	10	—	142	15.8									

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water). } 6650

Total population at all ages 8276
Number of inhabited houses 1632
Average number of persons per house 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ } At Census
of 1901.

Table III.
TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox ...								
Cholera ...								
Diphtheria ...	31	1	6		21	3		7
Membranous croup ...								
Erysipelas ...	17					17		
Scarlet fever ...	34	3	11	19	1			18
Typhus fever...								
Enteric fever...	14		1	4	2	7		14
Relapsing fever								
Continued fever								
Puerperal fever								
Plague ...								
Totals ...	96	4	18	23	24	27		39

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—
 Tanfield Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—
 Lanchester Workhouse. County Asylum.
 Isolation Hospital at Tanfield.

Table IV.
TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or non Residents in Public Institu- tions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox								
Measles								
Scarlet fever	5		2	3				5
Whooping-cough	6	3	3					
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup	5		1	4				3
Croup								
Fever { Typhus	6			2	1	3		6
{ Enteric								
{ Other contin'd								
Epidemic influenza								
Cholera								
Plague... ..								
Diarrhœa	7	7						
Enteritis	3	3						
Puerperal fever	1					1		
Erysipelas								
Other septic diseases...								
Phthisis, (Pulmonary... Tuberculosis	7			1	4	2		
Other tubercular diseases	13	4	6	2		1		
Cancer, malignant disease	2					1	1	
Bronchitis	12	5	3			2	2	
Pneumonia	6	3	1	1	1			
Pleurisy	1				1			
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs								
Alcoholism }	1						1	
Cirrhosis of liver }								
Venereal diseases								
Premature birth	9	9						
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1					1		
Heart diseases	10					6	4	
Accidents	11		1		2	7	1	
Suicides								
All other causes	46	19	3	2	1	13	8	
All causes	152	53	20	15	10	37	17	14

THOMAS BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

January 29th, 1906.

Table V.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	Certified...	...	13	4	3	2	22	3	4	3	7	3	1	3	1	2	2	1	52
	Uncertified	...																1	1
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...																	
	Chicken-pox	...																	
Common Infectious Diseases.	Measles.	...																	
	Scarlet Fever	...																	
Common Infectious Diseases.	Diphtheria . Croup	...																	
	Whooping Cough	...							1						1			1	3
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Diarrhoea, all forms	..						1		1	2	1					1		6
	Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...								1	1		1	1					4
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	}																	
	Premature Birth	..	8	1			9												9
Wasting Diseases.	Congenital Defects	...																	
	Injury at Birth	...																	
Wasting Diseases.	Want of Breast-milk	...																	
	Atrophy, Debility	}	4	2	1	1	8		1		2	1							12
Tuberculous Diseases.	Marasmus	}																	
	Tuberculous Meningitis	}																1	1
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Peritonitis	}																	
	Tabes Mesenterica	}									1								1
Tuberculous Diseases.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	}																	
	Erysipelas	...																	
Tuberculous Diseases.	Syphilis	...																	
	Rickets	...																	
Tuberculous Diseases.	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...																1	1
	Convulsions	...			2		2	1	1					1					5
Tuberculous Diseases.	Bronchitis	...						1	1		1			1			1		5
	Laryngitis	...																	
Tuberculous Diseases.	Pneumonia	...		1		1	2										1		3
	Suffocation, overlaying	...																	
Tuberculous Diseases.	Other Causes	...	1				1												1
			13	4	3	2	22	3	4	3	7	3	1	3	1	2	2	2	53

Births in the year {legitimate 289
 {illegitimate 5 Population Estimated to middle of 1905} 9000

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 53.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework

I—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories 10 (Including Factory Laundries).	4		
Workshops 10 (Including Workshop Laundries).	4		
Workplaces		None.	None.
Homeworkers' Premises ...			
Total ...	8		

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remidied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total ...				

3—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories	Nil.
Homework in unwholesome or infected Premises	Nil.

T. BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

January 26th, 1906.